

Robert A. Pearlman, MD, MPH and Mary Beth Foglia, RN, PhD, adjunct and affiliate faculty in the Department of Bioethics and Humanities (respectively) are also staff members of the VA's National Center for Ethics in Health Care and the authors of five peer-reviewed papers featured in a special issue of *AJOB Primary Research*, a journal of the *American Journal of Bioethics*.

The papers describe VA's experiences evaluating ethics quality in the VA health care system as part of IntegratedEthics™ (IE), VA's comprehensive model for managing ethics in health care organizations. The issue appeared online on February 11, 2013. The papers are available at www.tandfonline.com/toc/uabr20/current.

"It can be a challenge to evaluate ethics quality in health care," said Dr. Ellen Fox, Chief Ethics in Health Care Officer at VA. "These publications show that ethical practices and culture can be measured and managed just like every other dimension of health care quality." In the issue's lead article, commentators Bette-Jane Crigger, Director of Ethics Policy for the American Medical Association, and Matthew Wynia, Director of the AMA's Institute for Ethics, describe the papers as a "remarkable and helpful body of work" that they predict will be "influential well beyond the VA system." Robert Pearlman suggested that "measuring staff perceptions of ethical practices and the ethics environment provide insights into opportunities for improvement, increase the likelihood that ethics programs will provide benefit to patients and staff alike, and demonstrate the linkage between clinical and organizational ethics."

The papers are:

The IntegratedEthics™ Staff Survey: A Tool to Evaluate and Improve Ethical Practices in Health Care, which describes the development of the [IntegratedEthics Staff Survey](#) (IESS), an assessment tool that provides a broad snapshot of staff perceptions of ethical practices in the VA health care system. This paper is first authored by Robert Pearlman.

Perceptions of Clinical Ethics Practices: IntegratedEthics Staff Survey Data from the VA Health Care System, which examines clinicians' perceptions of ethical practices in the VA health care system. This paper is first authored by Robert Pearlman.

Perceptions of Research Ethics Practices: IntegratedEthics Staff Survey Data from the VA Health Care System, which assesses researchers' perceptions of practices in research ethics in the VA health care system. This is first authored by Robert Pearlman.

Perceptions of Ethical Leadership and the Ethical Environment and Culture: IntegratedEthics Staff Survey Data from the VA Health Care System, which examines VA employees' perceptions of ethical leadership and the ethical environment and culture in the VA health care system. This paper is first authored by Mary Beth Foglia.

The IntegratedEthics Facility Workbook: An Evaluation Tool to Support Health Care Ethics Program Implementation and Quality Management, which describes VA's four-year experience with the [IntegratedEthics Facility Workbook](#) (IEFW), a tool that evaluates ethics programs relative to IE quality standards. This paper is co-authored by Robert Pearlman and Mary Beth Foglia.

The IE assessment tools, including the IESS and the IEFW, are available on the [IntegratedEthics website](#). The links are:

IESS: <http://www.ethics.va.gov/iess10.pdf>

IEFW: <http://www.ethics.va.gov/IEFW12.pdf>